

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data structure representing a term comprising:
a term identification (ID);
a term text including text in a plurality of
languages; and
a term area.
2. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the term
ID comprises:
an ID;
a state;
a category; and

a description field indicating how the term is
used.
3. The data structure of claim 2 wherein the term
ID further comprises an indication that the term is a
duplicate of another term stored in a duplicated from
field.
4. The data structure of claim 2 wherein the
category further comprises:
a node type;
an object; and
a property name.
5. The data structure of claim 2 wherein the ID is
a GUID.

6. The data structure of claim 3 wherein the duplicated from field includes the ID for the term that the current term was duplicate from.

7. The data structure of claim 2 wherein the term ID includes a field indicating if the term is a master term.

8. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the state field includes information to manage the use of the term.

9. The data structure of claim 8 wherein the state field includes information indicating if the term has been proofread.

10. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the term text comprises:

- a textual phrase entry in an original language;
- a translation of the textual phrase into at least one of the plurality of languages.

11. The data structure of claim 10 wherein the term text further comprises:

- an edited date field for each entry in the term text indicating the date that entry was created.

12. The data structure of claim 11 wherein the term text further comprises:

- a unique ID for each entry in the term text; and
- a field holding a unique ID for a master term.

13. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the term area further comprises:

- a name key; and
- a description key.

14. The data structure of claim 13 wherein the description key includes information related to the specific area of the term.

15. The data structure of claim 13 wherein the name key includes an indication of where in an application the term is used.

16. The data structure of claim 1 wherein the term ID, the term text and the term area are in a single table.

17. A method of identifying and creating text for a term in a term database that matches a desired terminology for a label comprising the steps of:

- receiving data at an interface indicative of how the new term is used;
- searching the database for text matching a desired text; and

returning to the user a list of matches found in the term database.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein searching further includes searching in a term area of the term database for terms matching a desired specific use of the term.

19. The method of claim 17 further including the steps of:

selecting one of the matches found in the term database.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein receiving the data for the term includes receiving at least a portion of the desired text.

21. The method of claim 17 further including the steps of:

creating a new object in the term database for the new term.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein creating a new object further including the steps of:

assigning a GUID for the new term; and

creating a record in a term text database for the new term.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein receiving data into an interface further including the steps of:

receiving a category code for the new term; and
receiving a description for the new term.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein receiving data into the interface further includes:

receiving a specific desired use of the new
term.

25. The method of claim 21 further including the steps of:

storing the new term in the term database.

26. The method of claim 25 further including the steps of:

storing versions of the text for the term in a
record in a term text database.

27. The method of claim 17 further including the steps of:

opening a dialog interface prior to receiving
data into the interface; and
receiving the data in the dialog interface.

28. The method of claim 19 wherein searching the term database for text matching the desired text further including the steps of:

selecting records in the term database having at
least a portion of the desired text;

identifying in the selected records an indication of how the selected record is used; and
comparing the indicated use of the selected records with the indicated use of the new term; and
ordering the selected records based on a match with the desired text and indicated use of the new term.

29. The method of claim 28 further including the steps of:

selecting records in the term database having a similar specific use as the new term.

30. The method of claim 29 further including the steps of:

displaying the list of matches on the user interface.

31. The method of claim 30 further including the steps of:

displaying information for each identified entry contained in the term database.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein selecting one of the matches further including the steps of:

receiving an indication that one record in the list of matches is a desired entry; and
selecting that entry as the new term text.

33. The method of claim 29 further including the steps of:

comparing the category of the selected term against the category of the term;

wherein if the category of the selected term is not the same as the category of the new term, duplicating the selected term to the new term in the term database.

34. The method of claim 33 further including the steps of:

duplicating any translations in a term text database to the record in the term text database for the new term.

35. The method of claim 33 further including the steps of:

creating an entry in the new term ID indicating an ID of the selected term.

36. The method of claim 29 further including the steps of:

comparing in the term area the specific use of the selected term against the desired specific use of the new term;

wherein if the category of the selected term is not the same as the category of the new term then, duplicating the selected term to the new term in the term database.

37. The method of claim 36 further including the steps of:

 duplicating any translations in a term text database to the record in the term text database for the new term.

38. The method of claim 37 further including the steps of:

 creating an entry in the new term ID indicating an ID of the selected term.

39. The method of claim 35 further including the steps of:

 suggesting the new term to the term database;
 entering the new term in the term database with the new term ID; and
 changing a state of the new term to suggested.

40. The method of claim 39 further including the steps of:

 changing the state of the new term to a verified state following a review process.